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Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DA
SUBJ: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR DENMARK

REF: USNATO 01629

1. WE SUPPORT THE POSITION SET OUT IN PARA 6 REFTEL THAT USNATO RECOMMENDS TAKING AT THE DANISH FORCE GOAL REVIEW.

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST AND ASSISTANCE TO USNATO IN THEIR DIALOGUE WITH THE DANES:
(A) AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE BARRING A DRAMATIC DISPLAY OF WARSAW PACT AGRESSION- THAT THE DANES WILL SUPPLEMENT AND INCREASE VIA THE DEFENSE BUDGET THE EXISTING FOUR-YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, OF ASSISTANCE TO DANISH DEFENSE ADVOCATES FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO BRING BACK FROM BRUSSELS WORD THAT THE ALLIES REMAIN UNHAPPY WITH THE LEVEL OF DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING.
AS WE HAVE SUGGESTED ON A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THERE
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MAY BE SOME ADDITIONAL AREAS OUTSIDE THE FORMAL DEFENSE BUDGET THAT MIGHT BE UTILIZED TO EFFECT DEFENSE/SECURITY-TYPE EXPENDITURES. IF POSSIBLE ON THE FRINGES OF THE MEETING, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO SOUND OUT THE DANES ON THEIR JUDGMENT AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOITING THESE AREAS. (B) AT LEAST FROM WHERE WE SIT, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THE DANES HAVE FULLY ABSORBED ALL THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR F-16 BUY, PARTICULARLY IF THE DANISH

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AIR FORCE IS ABLE TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLAN TO REPLACE TWO SQUADRONS OF F-104S WITH F-16S SOMETIME IN THE MID-80S.

WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO SPELL OUT ALL THE IMPLICATIONS, THE DANES WILL ALSO HAVE TO FINANCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A NATO AEW SYSTEM, PRESUMABLY OUT OF A NEW...A NEW MULTILATERAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW ON EXPIRATION OF THE PRESENT ONE AT THE END OF 1980. (C) WE SEE A GOOD MANY SIGNS THAT THE DANISH DEFENSE COMMAND AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ARE EVEN NOW LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT FUNDED AT HIGHER LEVELS. IT IS, OF COURSE, TOO EARLY TO PREDICT HOW CLOSE DANISH MILITARY ASPIRATIONS ARE TO REALISTIC ACHIEVEMENT.

WE UNDERSTAND FROM HIGH-LEVEL DANISH SOURCES THAT THEY ARE RELATIVELY HEARTENED BY THE FRESH LOOK BROUGHT TO THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO BY DEFENSE MINISTER PAUL SOGAARD. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE TOLD THAT SOGAARD HAS ENTRUESTED THE FORMULATION OF A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO A JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESNTA-TIVES FROM THE DANISH DEFENSE COMMAND AT VEDBAEK AS WELL AS FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. HERETOFORE, THE DEFENSE COMMAND WOULD MORE OR LESS UNILATERALLY FORMULATE A BUDGET REQUEST WHICH WOULD THEN BE PASSED TO THE MINISTRY.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS STEERING COMMITTEE WILL BE TO PRODUCE A NEW DRAFT DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO PRESENT TO SYMPATHETIC DANISH PO-LITICAL PARTIES TOWARD THE END OF 1979. (IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE PRESENT DEFENSE AGREEMENT TOOK OVER A YEAR TO NEGOTIATE AMONG FIVE PARTIES REPRESENTING A MAJORITY IN THE FOLKETING. IN DENMARK THE PATTERN HAS BEEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GO TO PAR-

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LIAMENT FOR APPROVAL OF A DEFENSE AGREEMENT ONLY AFTER FORMAL AGREEMENT OF PARTIES HAS BEEN ACHIEVED MORE OR LESS OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENTARY FRAMEWORK ITSELF.)
(D) OUR FINAL OBSERVATION IS THAT IT WOULD BE A VICTORY INDEED FOR THE ALLIANCE IF DENMARK, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ACHIEVED A 3 PERCENT ACTUAL REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING ANNUALLY.
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